

## 10 SNAP Outreach Ideas for Faith-Based Organizations



**Help your congregation and community break the cycle of hunger and poverty in their communities by sharing information about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP benefits allow families to purchase more nutritious foods, like whole grains, low-fat and fat-free milk products, fruits, and vegetables. With SNAP, low-income families and individuals are better able to access healthy food, right in the communities where they live, work and play. Below are 10 ways you can help.**

1. Staff a SNAP information table to give out information and pre-screen for SNAP eligibility during Hunger Awareness month or during other sponsored events. Use the pre-screening tool available at <http://www.snap-step1.usda.gov/fns/>.
2. Host a food tasting, cooking demonstration, or health fair with healthy, easy to prepare recipes during Hunger Awareness month. Give out recipe cards that contain nutrition information and the national (1-800-221-5689) or local SNAP toll free number. For ideas, check out the recipe finder at <http://recipefinder.nal.usda.gov/>. Invite local media to the event.
3. If your parish, congregation or organization holds a food collection or manages a food pantry or food bank, include SNAP information with every bag of groceries you distribute. Go to [www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/default.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/default.htm) to order free USDA SNAP outreach materials. Plan a service activity with youth at the local food bank.
4. Educate all staff, including parish nurses, lay leaders, and faith leaders, about SNAP and how residents can get more information about applying for benefits.
5. Partner with your local SNAP office and discuss outreach opportunities you can assist with, such as helping clients fill out applications. Go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/map.htm> for a locator map.
6. Encourage local elected officials to speak about the positive economic impacts of SNAP benefits for community residents and the local economy. For example, every \$1 of federal SNAP benefits coming into the economy generates nearly double that amount in local economic activity..
7. Encourage local food retailers to be active partners by printing the national or local SNAP toll free number on grocery bags, receipts, and in weekly circulars and bulletins. Work with together to host outreach events.
8. Put SNAP information in all bulletins, newsletters, or other items given or mailed to the congregation or community. Order SNAP posters, flyers, and other materials to display in your place of worship.

9. Publish and disseminate SNAP materials in languages spoken in your community.

Downloadable materials are available at

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/translations.htm>

10. Team up with SNAP outreach staff and organizations in your community that work with immigrant populations. Develop and provide information to families to help clarify eligibility questions that families with mixed immigrant status might have.